

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline

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South Carolina's Unemployment Rate Increases in November

South Carolina's unemployment rate rose sharply in November to 12.3%, from a revised October rate of 12.0 %, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. November's jobless figures set a record high for the state. Estimates produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the state's labor force at 2,173,054 in November, an increase of 2,079. The number of unemployed increased 5,896 to 266,330. The national unemployment rate was 10.0% in November, down from 10.2% in October.

The state's job count decreased by 1,500 in November, with most of the decreases occurring in Construction (-1,700), and Leisure and Hospitality (-6,600). Partially offsetting the losses were gains in Government (+1,900), Retail Trade (+1,100), Professional & Business Services (+2,600), and Manufacturing (+600). Of note, gains in Manufacturing were observed for the first time since May of 2008. The state's overall job count was 50,800 below the year-ago level and nearly 95,200 below the December 2007 level when the recession began.

"We have seen an increase in the number of people returning to the workforce for the first time since May, and we will likely see the number of unemployed rise throughout the fall months. Going forward, extensive job creation in the private sector will be a key factor in lowering the state's unemployment rate for the long term," said Sam Foster, Interim Executive Director of the Commission.

Special Note:

On October 2, 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics stated that job losses reported for the nation during the 12-month period ending last March were 824,000 more than were originally reported. This revision was the result of an annual benchmarking process where preliminary job count estimates developed through sampling and estimating models are revised based on more up-to-date data from employer payroll records. South Carolina, as well as all other states, will be conducting their annual benchmarking over the next few months. If national trends are followed, most states will likely show greater jobs losses than are currently being reported in the preliminary estimates. The revised benchmarked data will be released early in 2010.



S. C. Employment Security Commission Samuel R. Foster, Interim Executive Director

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
November-09

Industry	November 2009	October 2009	November 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,853,400	1,854,900	1,904,200	-1,500	-50,800
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Construction	96,000	97,700	110,700	-1,700	-14,700
Manufacturing	211,900	211,300	236,400	600	-24,500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	357,600	356,500	369,900	1,100	-12,300
Information	29,700	29,600	29,100	100	600
Financial Activities	102,100	101,900	104,600	200	-2,500
Professional and Business Services	224,500	221,900	216,100	2,600	8,400
Educational and Health Services	211,000	209,600	210,000	1,400	1,000
Leisure and Hospitality	195,600	202,200	201,400	-6,600	-5,800
Government	350,800	348,900	350,800	1,900	0

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		November 2009	October 2009	Change
1	Allendale	23.0	22.1	0.9
2	Marion	21.4	20.5	0.9
3	Union	21.4	20.4	1.0
4	Chester	21.2	21.4	-0.2
5	Marlboro	20.1	20.8	-0.7
6	Barnwell	19.8	19.2	0.6
7	Lancaster	18.2	19.0	-0.8
8	Bamberg	17.9	17.7	0.2
9	Dillon	17.7	17.6	0.1
10	Orangeburg	17.7	17.6	0.1
11	Chesterfield	17.0	17.3	-0.3
12	Hampton	16.9	16.1	0.8
13	Clarendon	16.7	16.1	0.6
14	McCormick	16.7	16.6	0.1
15	Williamsburg	16.7	15.9	0.8
16	Cherokee	16.5	16.6	-0.1
17	Lee	16.2	15.6	0.6
18	Abbeville	15.1	15.1	0.0
19	Colleton	14.9	14.2	0.7
20	York	14.5	15.6	-1.1
21	Greenwood	14.3	14.0	0.3
22	Oconee	14.3	14.2	0.1
23	Georgetown	14.0	12.8	1.2
24	Sumter	13.9	13.9	0.0
25	Horry	13.3	12.1	1.2
26	Calhoun	13.1	13.0	0.1
27	Darlington	13.1	12.8	0.3
28	Fairfield	13.0	12.1	0.9
29	Anderson	12.7	12.8	-0.1
30	Newberry	12.6	11.7	0.9
31	Spartanburg	12.5	12.4	0.1
32	Florence	12.4	12.0	0.4
33	Laurens	12.0	11.7	0.3
34	Jasper	11.5	11.3	0.2
35	Berkeley	11.0	10.8	0.2
36	Pickens	11.0	10.9	0.1
37	Kershaw	10.9	10.5	0.4
38	Edgefield	10.6	11.0	-0.4
39	Greenville	10.5	10.5	0.0
40	Dorchester	10.4	10.3	0.1
41	Richland	10.1	9.7	0.4
42	Saluda	10.0	9.8	0.2
43	Charleston	9.7	9.4	0.3
44	Beaufort	9.4	8.9	0.5
45	Aiken	8.9	9.9	-1.0
46	Lexington	8.8	8.6	0.2

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

November-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	November 2009	October 2009	November 2008	November 2009	October 2009	November 2008	November 2009	October 2009	November 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,380	11,493	11,371	1,718	1,737	1,060	15.1	15.1	9.3
AIKEN	73,945	75,214	75,425	6,588	7,439	5,245	8.9	9.9	7.0
ALLENDALE	3,275	3,286	3,393	754	726	651	23.0	22.1	19.2
ANDERSON MSA	86,376	87,067	84,651	10,929	11,136	6,820	12.7	12.8	8.1
BAMBERG	6,119	6,182	6,330	1,094	1,093	899	17.9	17.7	14.2
BARNWELL	9,114	9,145	9,120	1,807	1,758	1,280	19.8	19.2	14.0
BEAUFORT	62,211	62,427	64,371	5,868	5,581	4,027	9.4	8.9	6.3
BERKELEY	80,405	80,237	79,616	8,836	8,685	5,856	11.0	10.8	7.4
CALHOUN	7,228	7,269	7,096	944	946	650	13.1	13.0	9.2
CHARLESTON	177,866	177,252	176,756	17,181	16,606	11,153	9.7	9.4	6.3
CHEROKEE	25,372	25,626	25,732	4,185	4,257	2,989	16.5	16.6	11.6
CHESTER	15,545	15,714	15,268	3,303	3,361	2,122	21.2	21.4	13.9
CHESTERFIELD	18,697	18,971	18,854	3,174	3,281	2,185	17.0	17.3	11.6
CLARENDON	12,350	12,419	12,532	2,064	2,004	1,481	16.7	16.1	11.8
COLLETON	16,593	16,623	16,863	2,468	2,357	1,725	14.9	14.2	10.2
DARLINGTON	32,182	32,240	32,060	4,225	4,126	3,372	13.1	12.8	10.5
DILLON	12,896	13,035	13,024	2,289	2,289	1,597	17.7	17.6	12.3
DORCHESTER	64,168	64,099	63,709	6,642	6,586	4,422	10.4	10.3	6.9
EDGEFIELD	10,980	11,100	11,107	1,167	1,226	883	10.6	11.0	7.9
FAIRFIELD	11,371	11,315	11,539	1,481	1,364	1,394	13.0	12.1	12.1
FLORENCE	65,254	65,304	63,812	8,117	7,844	5,181	12.4	12.0	8.1
GEORGETOWN	30,088	30,073	30,638	4,227	3,862	2,963	14.0	12.8	9.7
GREENVILLE	226,687	226,596	226,559	23,773	23,704	15,476	10.5	10.5	6.8
GREENWOOD	29,785	29,951	30,260	4,267	4,193	2,833	14.3	14.0	9.4
HAMPTON	7,633	7,664	7,738	1,289	1,236	855	16.9	16.1	11.0
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	127,763	128,803	127,204	17,040	15,590	12,439	13.3	12.1	9.8
JASPER	9,999	10,072	10,209	1,147	1,141	728	11.5	11.3	7.1
KERSHAW	30,595	30,638	30,334	3,331	3,207	2,367	10.9	10.5	7.8
LANCASTER	29,093	29,620	29,407	5,297	5,617	3,889	18.2	19.0	13.2
LAURENS	33,941	33,792	33,904	4,086	3,940	2,847	12.0	11.7	8.4
LEE	8,196	8,246	8,177	1,330	1,288	864	16.2	15.6	10.6
LEXINGTON	134,430	134,915	133,655	11,810	11,545	7,876	8.8	8.6	5.9
MARION	12,995	13,031	13,152	2,775	2,668	2,220	21.4	20.5	16.9
MARLBORO	11,544	11,796	11,849	2,317	2,450	1,798	20.1	20.8	15.2
McCORMICK	3,348	3,383	3,410	559	562	406	16.7	16.6	11.9
NEWBERRY	18,112	18,161	18,661	2,290	2,131	1,589	12.6	11.7	8.5
OCONEE	30,391	30,575	30,582	4,360	4,328	2,821	14.3	14.2	9.2
ORANGEBURG	40,251	40,673	40,744	7,133	7,170	5,105	17.7	17.6	12.5
PICKENS	59,786	59,698	59,713	6,585	6,502	4,370	11.0	10.9	7.3
RICHLAND	183,934	184,314	182,425	18,582	17,951	12,813	10.1	9.7	7.0
SALUDA	9,321	9,362	9,289	930	919	681	10.0	9.8	7.3
SPARTANBURG MSA	139,403	139,573	139,200	17,468	17,283	11,338	12.5	12.4	8.1
SUMTER MSA	42,616	42,957	42,803	5,924	5,968	4,227	13.9	13.9	9.9
UNION	12,301	12,252	11,834	2,634	2,501	1,488	21.4	20.4	12.6
WILLIAMSBURG	15,353	15,419	15,678	2,557	2,448	1,961	16.7	15.9	12.5
YORK	107,657	109,484	107,170	15,566	17,075	9,473	14.5	15.6	8.8
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	322,439	321,588	320,081	32,659	31,878	21,431	10.1	9.9	6.7
COLA MSA	376,880	377,813	374,339	37,077	35,933	25,782	9.8	9.5	6.9
FLORENCE MSA	97,436	97,544	95,872	12,342	11,970	8,553	12.7	12.3	8.9
GRNV MSA	320,414	320,085	320,175	34,444	34,146	22,692	10.7	10.7	7.1
South Carolina*	2,173.1	21,171.0	2,180.4	266.3	260.4	178.9	12.3	12.0	8.2

* Seasonally Adjusted